

LARC Training Notes and Follow up

The Spring Public Health Meeting provided an opportunity for me to meet most of you and I enjoyed putting faces and names together! I look forward to working with you and wanted to review a few things – just to be sure I was clear during the training.

Carrie

1. Participant Fraud/Abuse

- a. One of the goals at the State office is to reduce the number of rejected checks that WIC is processing. The Montana WIC Program pays a fee for each rejected check and a lot of time at the state and local level is spent processing the paperwork associated with them. Reducing the number of rejected checks can be achieved through educating the participant and the retail staff - education should always be our first option. The revised sanction chart in Chapter 3 has provided more opportunities for education in regards to the most common issues with checks.
- b. If a participant is not responsive to education and a warning, **then** steps need to be taken to disqualify them from the program.
- c. **Please remember that a parent or proxy that is abusing the program may be disqualified, but the child they are representing is *not* disqualified.** The child/children are to be assigned an alternate authorized representative to handle the children's WIC benefits. Children under the parent or proxy's care may still receive WIC benefits, but the disqualified parent or proxy may not be their authorized representative during the time of the disqualification.
- d. Please contact the State office before you disqualify a participant, parent or proxy, or if you have any questions regarding this procedure.
- e. Follow up and education will reduce many of the errors being made, and it will help WIC participants take responsibility for how they manage their WIC benefits.

2. Clarification on the Monitoring Visits and Educational Buys will be in next week's newsletter. Some good points were brought up during the training and they will be reviewed and addressed.